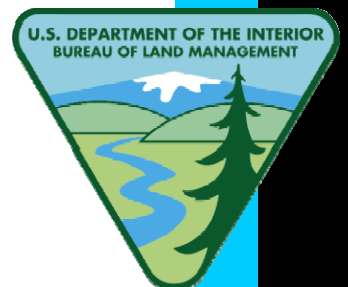


Draft Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Management Plan, California



El Centro Field Office

**Draft RAMP/EIS
April, 2010**



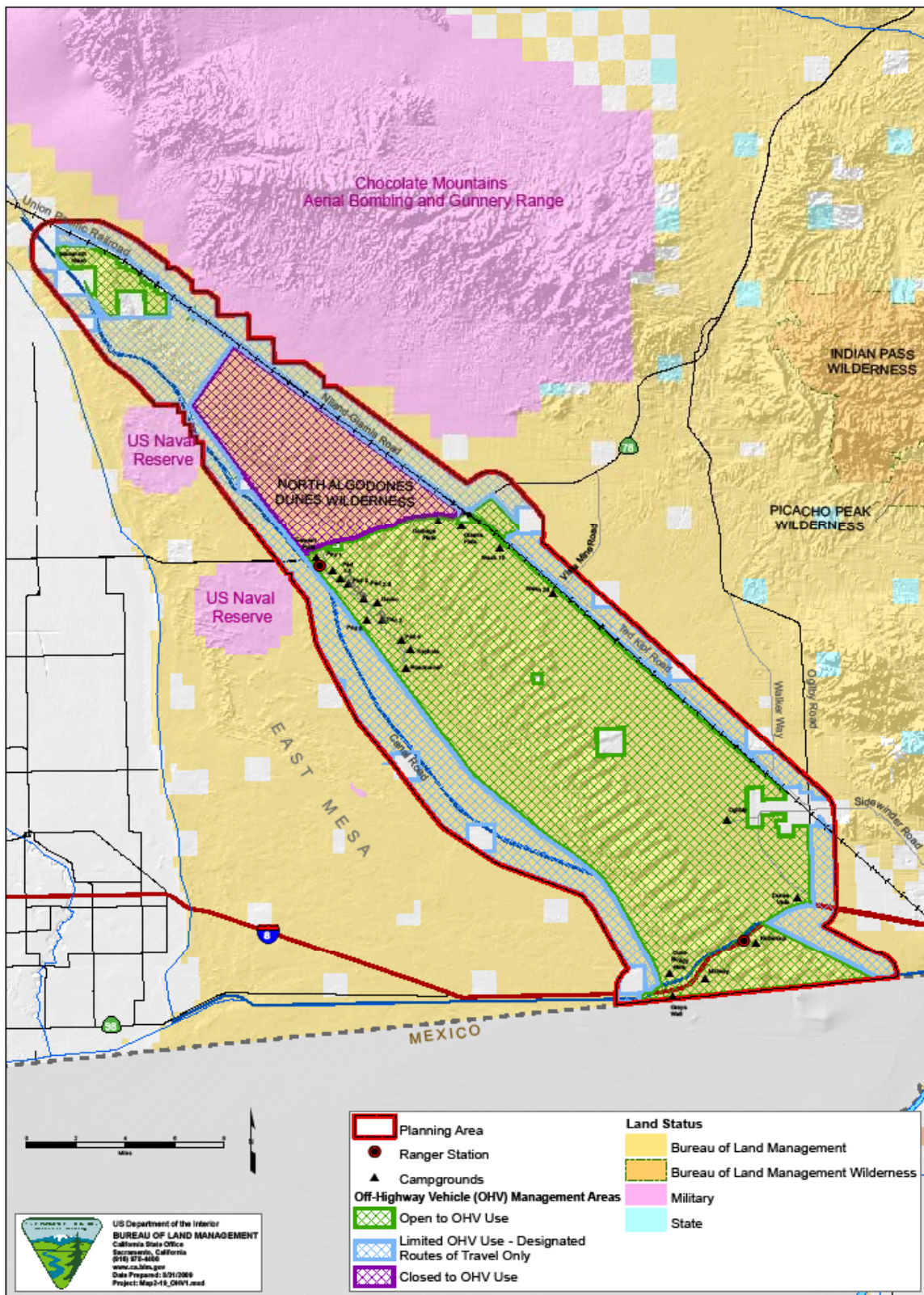
Background

- In 2000, BLM was litigated by the Center for Biological Diversity, alleging that the BLM failed to formally consult on Section 7 of the ESA.
- In 2001, the court ordered that several areas of the ISDRA be administratively closed to protect Peirson's Milk-vetch (PMV).
- In 2006, the court vacated BLM's Record of Decision (ROD), and ordered BLM to maintain the administrative closures. The Biological Opinion (BO) for the ROD was also remanded to FWS.
- In 2008, FWS designated Critical Habitat for PMV, which triggered BLM to begin a new RAMP planning process, and obtain a new BO from FWS.

Description of Planning Area

- About 200,000 acres in the Planning Area.
- About 150,000 acres of BLM managed lands in the Planning Area.
- 25,829 acres designated as North Algodones Dunes Wilderness Area.
- Bordered on the east by the Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range and the Cargo Muchacho Mtns.
- Bordered on the west by the East Mesa (Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Management Area).
- Bordered on the south by the US/Mexico Border.

Alternative 1



IMPERIAL SAND DUNES DRAFT RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

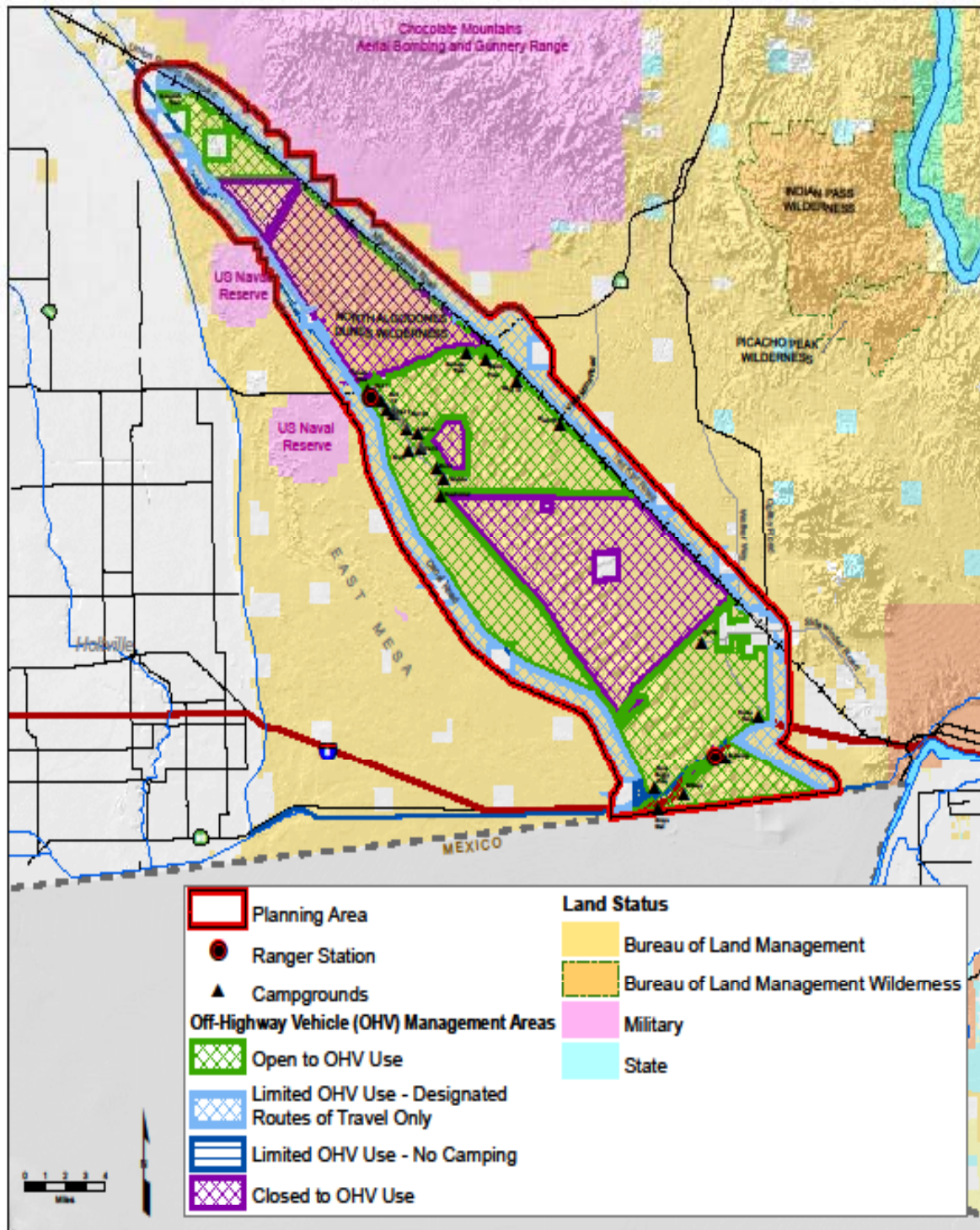
MAP 2-19: OHV Management Areas
Alternative 1



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September 2009

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Alternative 2

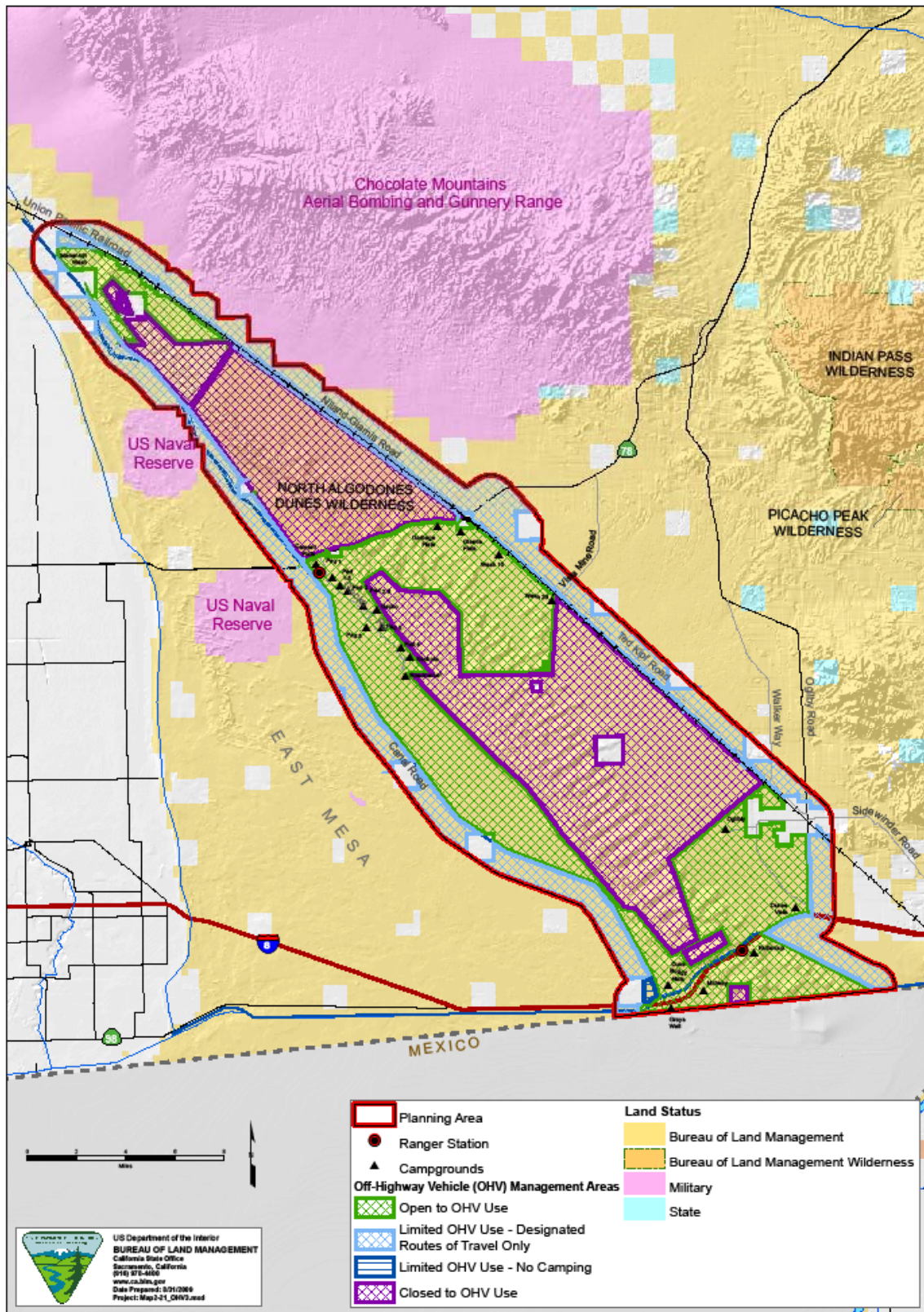


IMPERIAL SAND DUNES
DRAFT RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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MAP 2-20: OHV Management Areas
 Alternative 2



Alternative 3



**IMPERIAL SAND DUNES
DRAFT RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

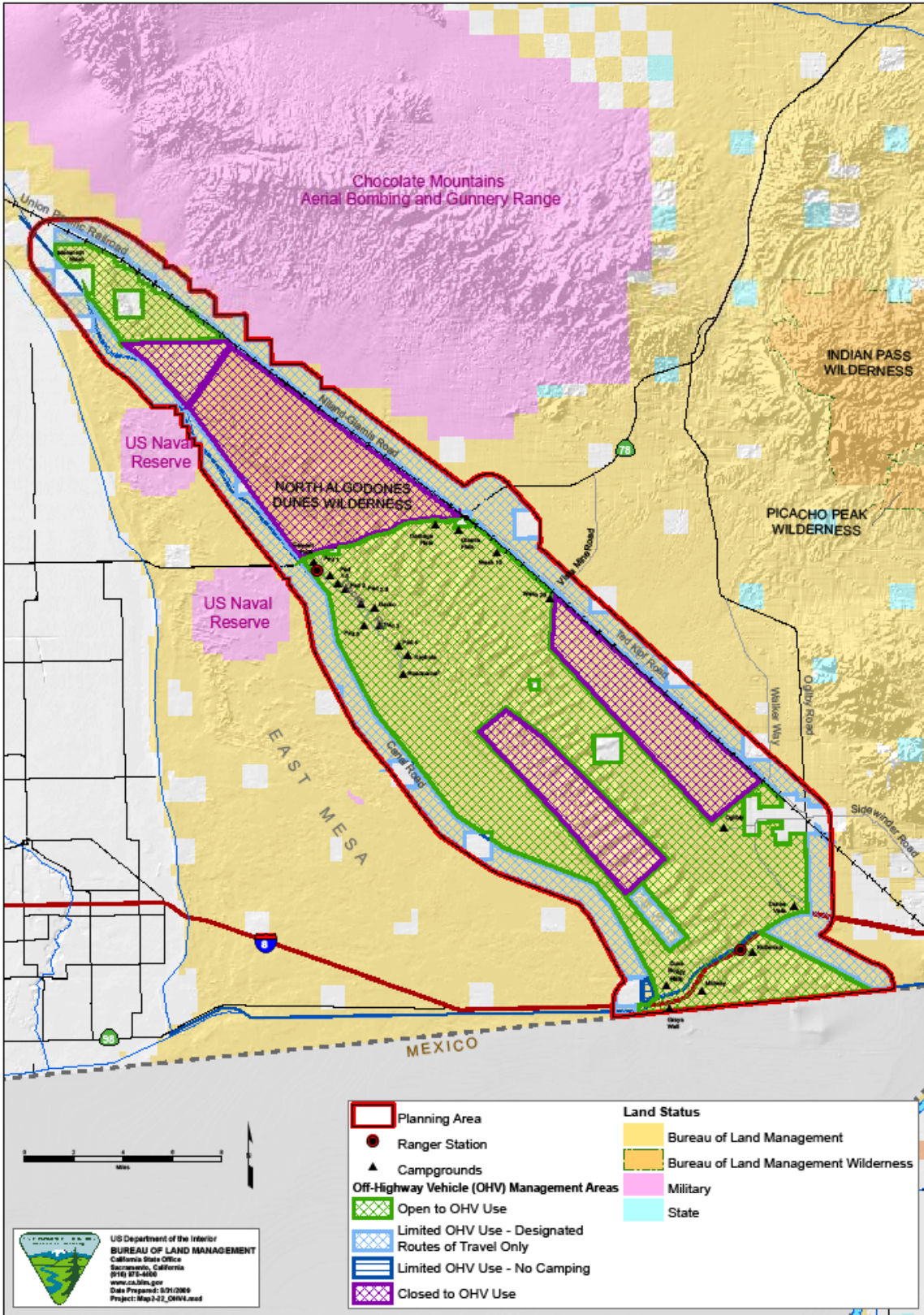
**MAP 2-21: OHV Management Areas
Alternative 3**



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Alternative 4



**IMPERIAL SAND DUNES
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DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

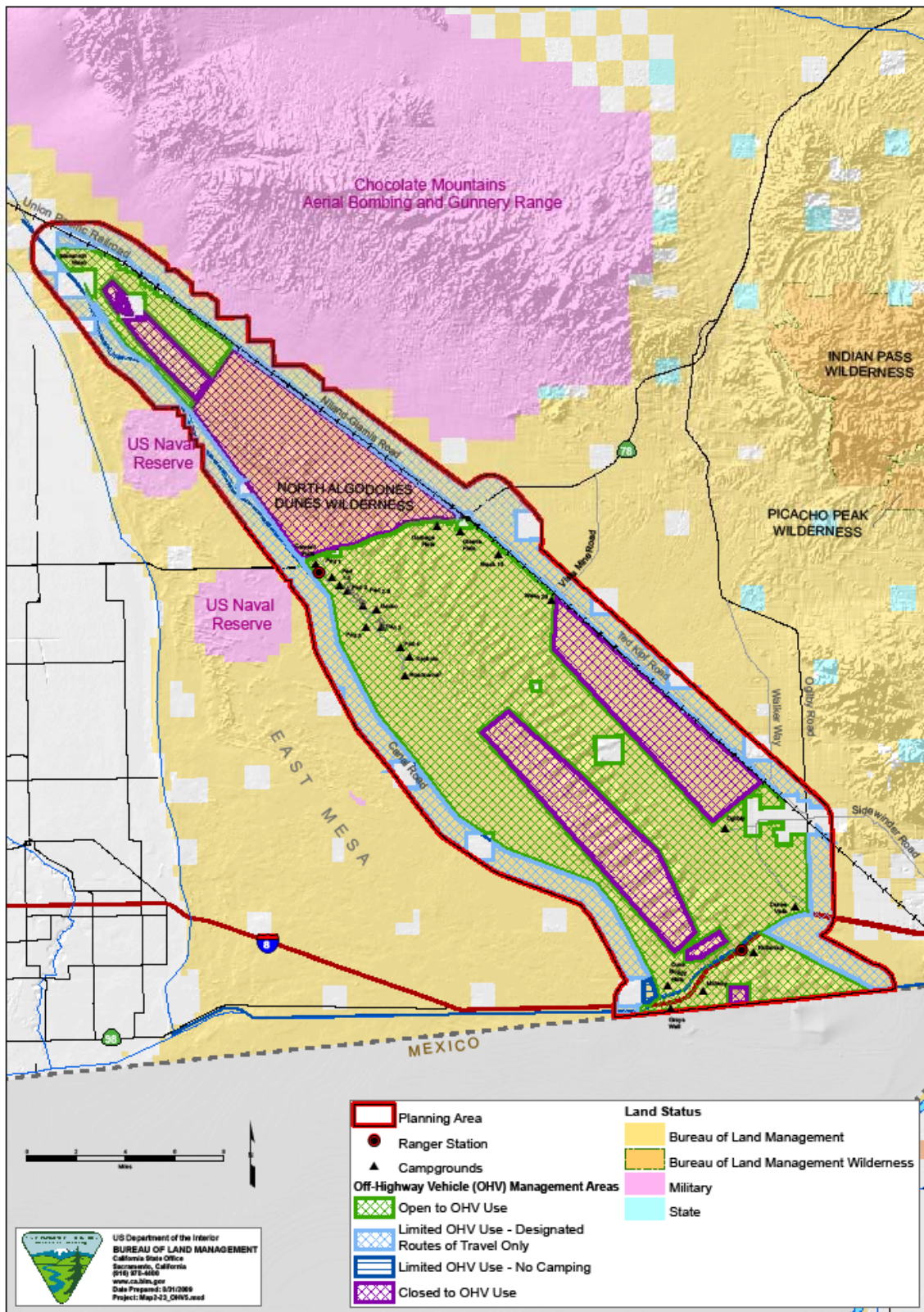
**MAP 2-22: OHV Management Areas
Alternative 4**



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Alternative 5



**IMPERIAL SAND DUNES
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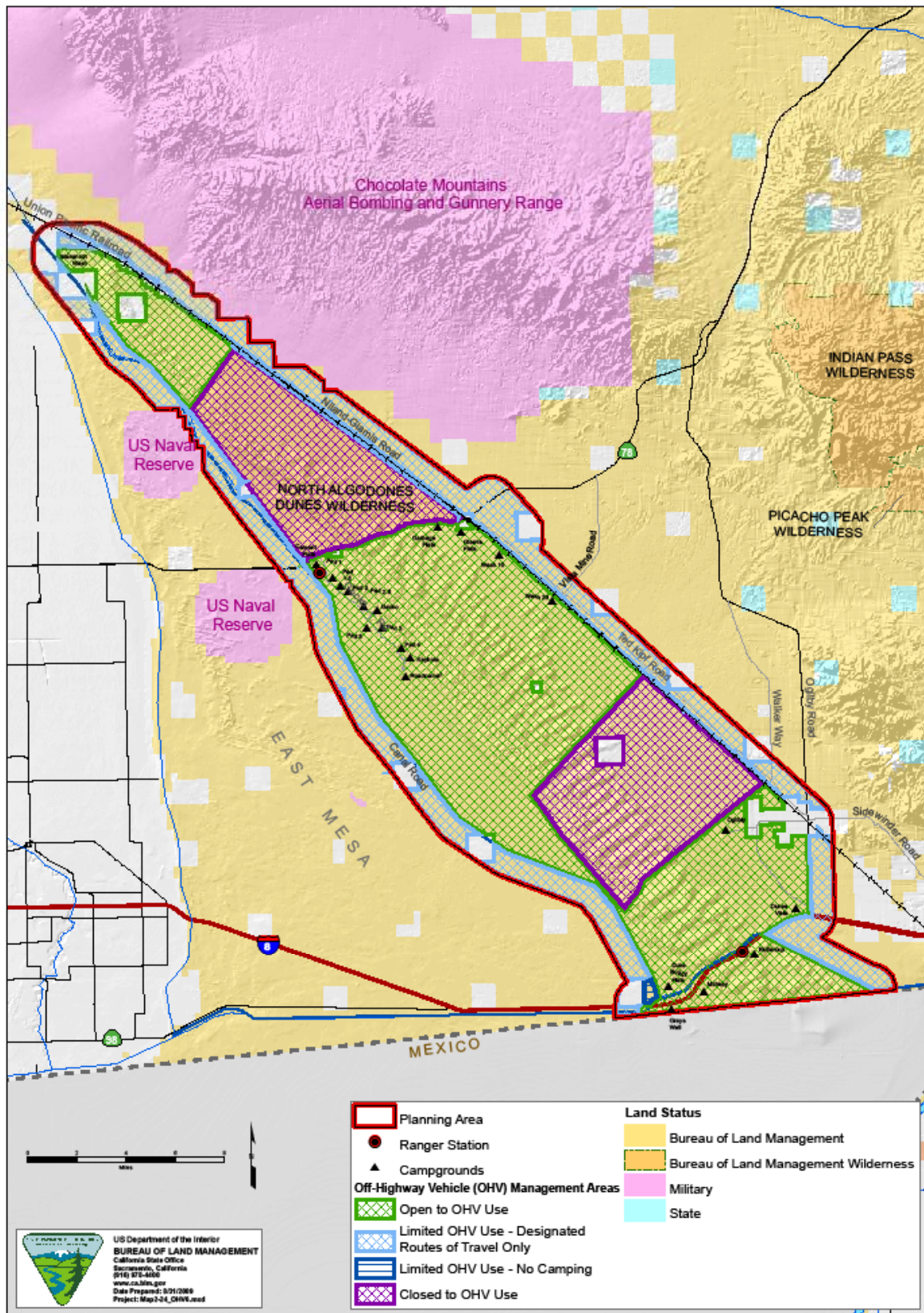
**MAP 2-23: OHV Management Areas
Alternative 5**



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Alternative 6



IMPERIAL SAND DUNES DRAFT RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

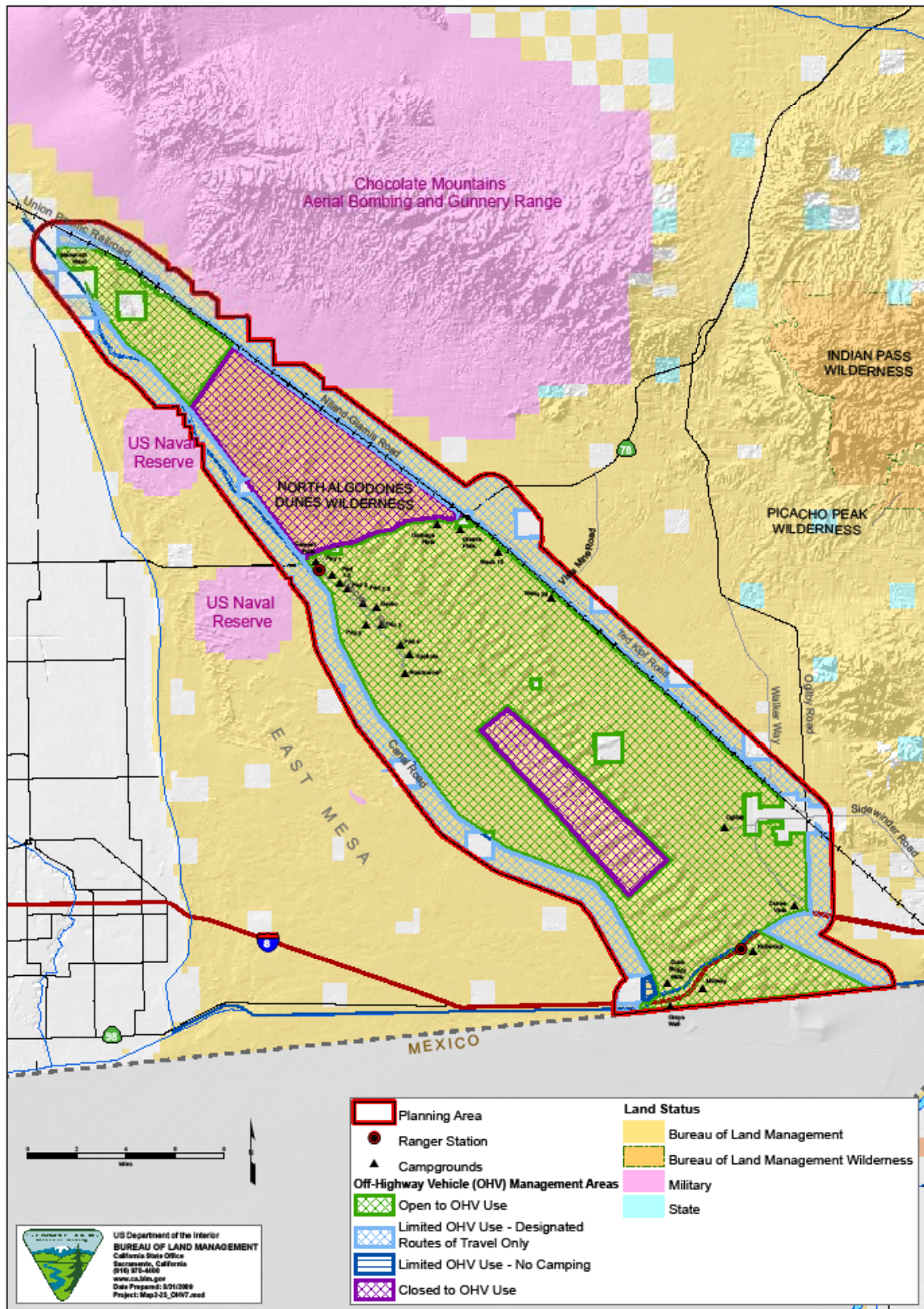
MAP 2-24: OHV Management Areas
Alternative 6



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Alternative 7



IMPERIAL SAND DUNES DRAFT RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

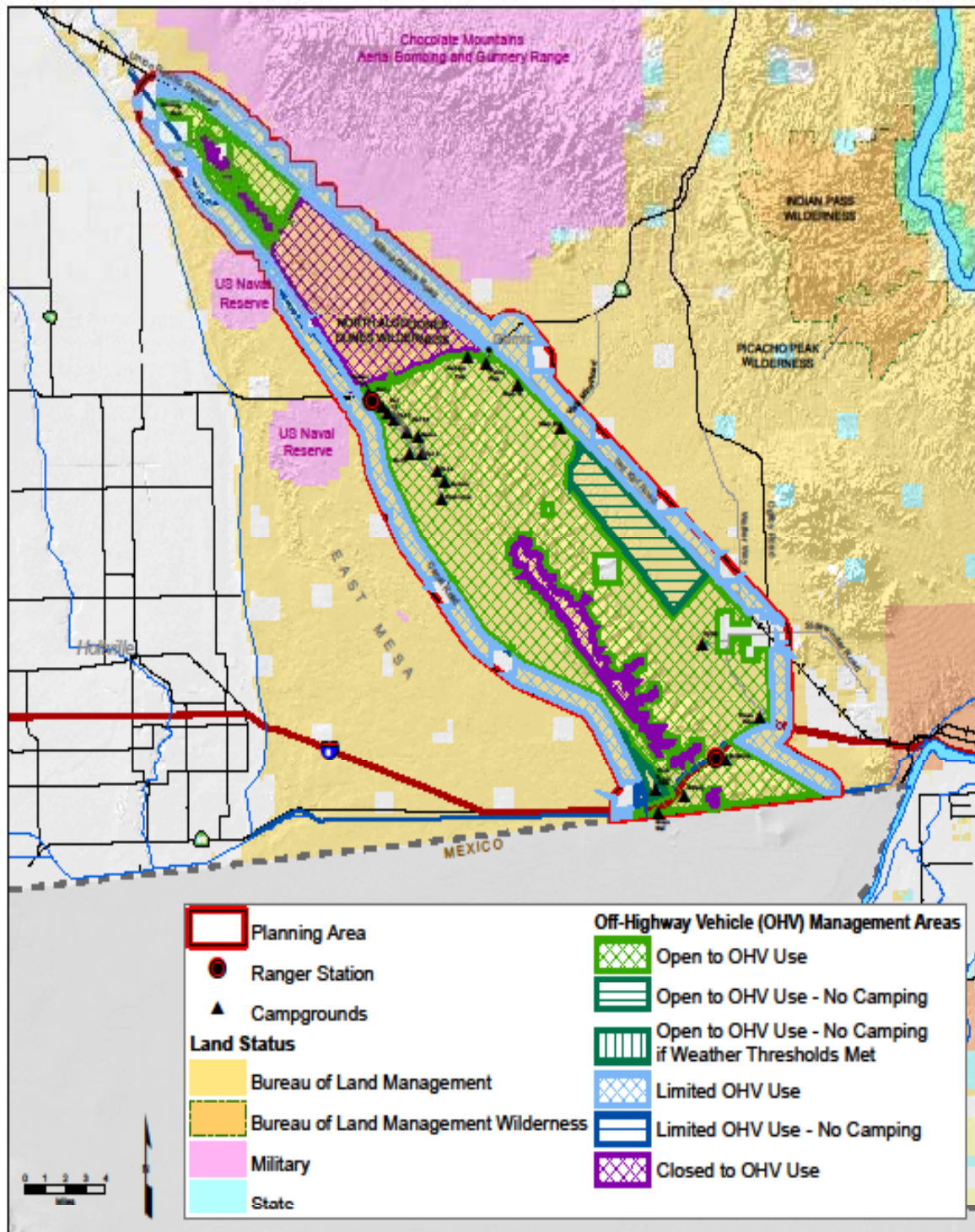
MAP 2-25: OHV Management Areas
Alternative 7



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Alternative 8



IMPERIAL SAND DUNES DRAFT RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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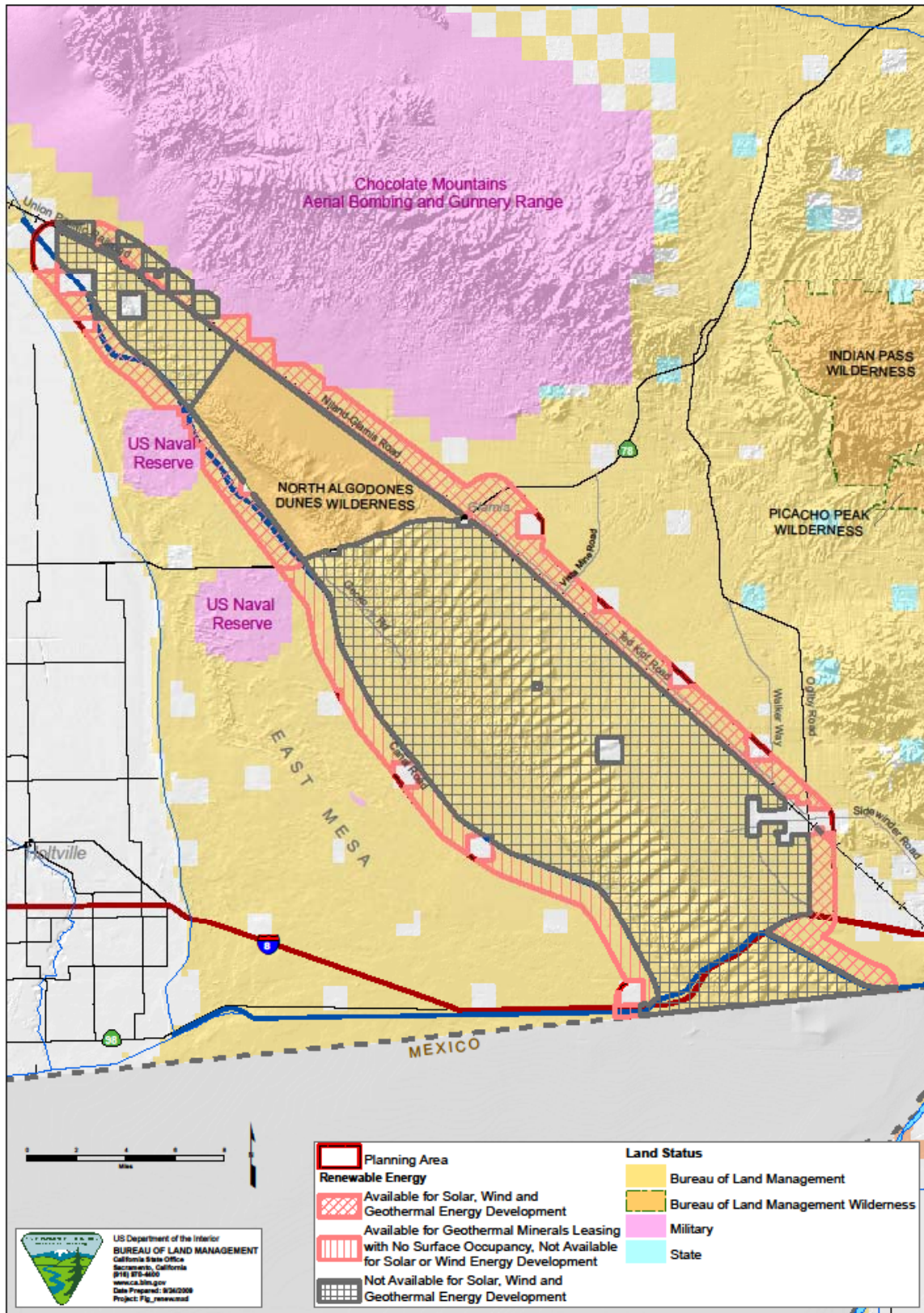


MAP 2-26: OHV Management Areas
Alternative 8

Overview of Alternatives

Recreation / Peirson's Milkvetch (PMV) Critical Habitat

Alternative	Acres Available for OHV (Open & Limited)	Acres Closed to OHV (outside of Wilderness)	Acres of PMV Critical Habitat Closed (outside of Wilderness)
Alternative 1 – No Action 1987 RAMP	188,462	0	0
Alternative 2 – Current Admin Closures	140,740	47,722	6,570
Alternative 3	127,711	60,750	8,840
Alternative 4	158,598	28,476	6,308
Alternative 5	156,433	32,029	8,840
Alternative 6	161,272	27,190	3,760
Alternative 7	177,892	10,570	5,634
Alternative 8 – Preferred Alternative	179,622	8,840	8,840



**IMPERIAL SAND DUNES
DRAFT RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Lands Available for Renewable Energy Leasing and Development



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Overview of Alternatives

Renewable Energy and Geothermal Leasing

Alternative	Acres Available for Wind and Solar development	Acres excluded from Wind and Solar development (outside of Wilderness)	Acres available for Geothermal development (with surface occupancy)	Acres available for Geothermal development (No surface occupancy)
Alternative 1 – No Action 1987 RAMP	187,987	0	187,987	0
Alternative 2 – Current Admin Closures	187,987	0	187,987	0
Alternative 3	38,895	149,092	0	0
Alternative 4	38,895	0	0	187,987
Alternative 5	38,895	0	11,939	0
Alternative 6	38,895	0	11,939	0
Alternative 7	187,987	0	187,987	0
Alternative 8 – Preferred Alternative	37,961	150,026	37,961	12,654

Overview of Preferred Alternative

- 179,622 acres available for OHV recreation (Open and Limited use).
- 11,670 (100%) acres of PMV Critical Habitat closed to OHV recreation (including Wilderness).
- 11,154 acres of microphyll woodland closed to camping (still available for OHV use).
- 1,140 acres of Dunebuggy Flats campground that would be closed to camping if rainfall threshold (1.82") is met by December 31 (still available for OHV use).
- 37,961 acres available for wind and solar development, as well as geothermal leasing (with surface occupancy).
- 12,654 acres available for geothermal leasing (no surface occupancy).
- Delete North Algodones Dunes ACEC designation to avoid overlaps with more restrictive designations.
- Reduce acreage of East Mesa ACEC to avoid overlap with ISDRA Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).

ISDRA Draft RAMP/EIS Summary

- Closes 100% of PMV Critical Habitat (CH) – no adverse modification of CH.
- More acreage available for OHV recreation than current situation
- Provides for extraordinary protection of PMV in an extraordinary year
- Lands made available for renewable energy.

Substantive, Useful comments are:

- Within the geographic scope of the ISDRA.
- Not opinions, assertions, or unsubstantiated claims.
- Alert the BLM to flaws in analysis, missing data sources, or additional alternatives not considered.
- Written and submitted via email, U.S. Mail, hand-delivered or faxed.

How to Submit Written Comments:

- E-mail: caisdrmp@ca.blm.gov
- Fax: (760) 337-4490
- Mail/Hand Deliver to:
1661 So. 4th St., El Centro,
California 92243
- Electronic copy of the document can
be found at:
<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro.html>
- Public comment period ends:
June 23, 2010
(Comments must be postmarked by this date)

